

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:268

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016

Pollution in Two-Tier Cities

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of two-tier cities in the country which are facing serious problem of pollution;
- (b) the mechanism for coordination between the Union Government and the State Governments for meeting these challenges;
- (c) the details of success achieved vis-a-vis gravity of challenge; and
- (d) the anticipated expenditure required during the next five years to meet the challenge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in 74 Tier-II cities. The ambient air quality data for the period 2015 pertaining to two-tier cities in the country given at Annexure. Analysis of data shows that 41 cities exceed the ambient air quality standard. In addition these cities are also facing problem of water pollution due to discharges of untreated sewage. CPCB estimated the sewage generation from Class II towns as 2696.70 MLD and treatment capacity 233.7 MLD, leaving a wide gap of approximately 2463 MLD. Also, water quality monitoring indicates that the rivers are polluted in downstream of major urban centers due to large scale water abstraction and discharge of untreated / partially treated wastewater and not meeting the criteria. Municipal corporations are largely not able to handle the entire sewage generated from the towns with the existing infrastructure.

(b) & (c) CPCB along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committee (PCC) are assessing the status of pollution in cities / town under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) and National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP) with a network of 612 stations and 2500 locations respectively. The main sources of pollution include emission from automobiles, suspension of dust, construction activities, industrial emissions and disposal of untreated and partially treated sewage etc. Some of the major steps taken by the government to curb pollution in Indian cities inter alia include the following:-

- (i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
- (ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
- (iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air and water quality;
- (iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;
- (v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.
- (vi) Preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments;

Taking note of the gravity of pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:

- (i) Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
- (ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities including some of Tier-II cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
- (iii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
- (iv) Action to comply with effluent standards is taken by SPCBs / PCCs to improve the water quality of the rivers;
- (v) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
- (vi) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules.
- (vii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
- (viii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
- (ix) Financial assistance for installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
- (x) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
- (xi) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
- (xii) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- (xiii) Issuance of directions for Zero Liquid Discharge / water conservation;
- (xiv) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
- (xv) Implementation of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country which have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) to undertake various conservation activities including interception, diversion and treatment of waste water, pollution abatement, lake beautification, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation etc.

The above mentioned steps have contributed in reducing pollution in Indian cities. But for the various steps taken by Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories and other agencies the level of pollution would have been worse.

(d) The allocation / anticipated allocation of funds under the heads 'Central Pollution Control Board' and 'Pollution Abatement' during the period 2016-17 to 2020-21 is given below:

Sl. No. Financial Year Anticipated allocation (Rs. in Crore)

1. 2016-17 70.00
2. 2017-18 94.00
3. 2018-19 109.90
4. 2019-20 128.68
5. 2020-21 150.91
